

## Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1899

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

BEIRUT FOR AGRATT PITCHER

ROME FODAG FOR JOHN WEIDERT

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (BUTZ, EARL), SY

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION - SYRIAN LEADERS

REF: DAMASCUS 2587

FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON SYRIAN LEADERS  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ IS EXPECTED TO MEET:

1. PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASAD: LONGTIME DEFENSE MINISTER AND  
COMMANDER OF THE SYRIAN AIR FORCE. IN NOVEMBER 1970, HE STAGED  
A SUCCESSFUL INTRA  
-BATH-PARTY COUP. ELECTED PRESIDENT IN  
MARCH 1971. PRAGMATIC MODERATE BY BATH PARTY STANDARDS.  
HAS LIBERALIZED POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN  
SYRIA. ABOUT 44, MARRIED WITH FOUR SONS AND A DAUGHTER.  
SPEAKS LIMITED ENGLISH. ADDRESSED AS MR. PRESIDENT.

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2. MAHMUD IBN SALIH AL-AYYUBI, PRIME MINISTER:

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN MAY 1966. APPOINTED MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN MAY 1969 (INSTITUTED COMPULSORY EDUCATION). APPOINTED DEPT. PRIME MINISTER NOVEMBER 20, 1970 WHILE RETAINING EDUCATION PORTFOLIO. BECAME VICE PRESIDENT IN APRIL 1971. HAS HELD PRESENT POSITION SINCE DECEMBER 23, 1972. MARRIED; SPEAKS FRENCH AND ARABIC. ADDRESSED AS MR. MINISTER.

3. MOHAMMAD HAYDAR, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS: WAS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM FROM APRIL 1971 TO SEPTEMBER 1973 WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED TO PRESENT POSITION. SAID TO WELCOME PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND HAS PRESIDED OVER CURRENCY REFORMS DESIGNED TO ATTRACT DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL. SERVED IN MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN REFORM IN 1964 AS A LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT SUPERVISOR AND IN 1966 WAS NAMED GOVERNOR OF PROVINCE OF HASAKAH. MET WITH AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR NOVEMBER 4. DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. ADDRESSED AS MR. MINISTER.

4. 'ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: ASSUMED HIS PRESENT POST IN PRESIDENT ASAD'S CABINET IN NOVEMBER 1970. SERVED AS MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE IN GOVERNMENT FORMED IN MAY 1969. KHADDAM, 41, EARNED A LAW DEGREE AT DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY AND PRACTICED LAW IN LATAKIA IN EARLY 1960S. WAS NAMED GOVERNOR OF HAMA IN 1964. IN OCTOBER 1965 HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE SAME POSITION FOR THE RURAL DAMASCUS DISTRICT. IN 1968, HE BECAME ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE SUPREME STATE SECURITY COURT. KHADDAM IS MARRIED AND SPEAKS FRENCH. ADDRESSED AS MR. MINISTER:

5. MURSIL ABOU-OMAR, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM: WAS APPOINTED MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM SEPTEMBER 1, 1974. THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF AGE; RECEIVED B.A. IN COMMERCIAL SCIENCE FROM UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO IN 1964. FROM 1966 TO 1971 HE HELD VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE DIRECTORATE OF FOREIGN TRADE OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE. IN 1971 WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE BANK. HE WAS LATER NAMED DIRECTOR OF AGRARIAN REFORM IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM. LATTER POSITION WAS VERY POWERFUL, AS DIRECTORATE, WHICH IS SEMI-AUTONOMOUS, HAS AUTHORITY TO DECIDE UPON QUESTIONS RELATING TO LAND EXPROPRIATION. DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. ADDRESSED AS MR. MINISTER.

6. MOHAMMAD AL-IMADI, MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FOREIGN TRADE: HAS HELD HIS PRESENT POSITION SINCE DECEMBER 1972.

APPOINTED MINISTER OF PLANNING IN MARCH 1972. NOTED FOR HIS COMMON-SENSE APPROACH TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, IMADI HAS RECENTLY LIBERALIZED ECONOMIC CONTROLS AND IS ENCOURAGING PRIVATE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS. IMADI EARNED A DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY; HIS EARLY CAREER WAS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. IN AUGUST 1963 HE TRANSFERRED TO THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AS DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PLANNING. AS OF JULY 1965 WAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY AND BECAME ITS DEPUTY MINISTER IN JUNE 1969. MINISTER IMADI SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH; HE IS MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN. ADDRESSED AS MR MINISTER.

7. DR. NOURALLAH NOURALLAH, MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING AFFAIRS: HAS HELD THIS POSITION SINCE SEPTEMBER 1, 1974. WAS MINISTER OF FINANCE FROM MAY 1969 TO DECEMBER 1972. HELD SEVERAL POSITIONS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE BEFORE BECOMING DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE AGRICULTURAL BANK. WAS GOVERNOR OF THE CENTRAL BANK FROM MARCH TO MAY 1963 BUT REASSIGNED TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOLLOWING A COUP. MINISTER NOURALLAH HAS A B.A. IN LAW AND A PHD IN FINANCIAL SCIENCE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS. HE IS ABOUT 50 YEARS OLD AND SPEAKS FRENCH. ADDRESSED AS MR. MINISTER.

8. SUBHI AL-KAHALEH, MINISTER OF THE EUPHRATES DAM: FORMER DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE EUPHRATES DAM PROJECT, WHO HELD A NUMBER OF MINISTERIAL POSTS DURING THE EARLY 1960S. STUDIED IN LONDON AND SPEAKS ENGLISH. ADDRESSED AS MR. MINISTER.  
MURPHY

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